



The Systematics Association-supported Symposium on Arachnid Systematics of the Oriental and Indo-Pacific Regions (with Student & Early Career Researcher Support) within ICA 2026

The Organizing Committee of the 23rd International Congress of Arachnology (ICA 2026) is pleased to announce a 'Symposium on Arachnid Systematics of the Oriental and Indo-Pacific Regions within ICA 2026', to be held in Kochi, Kerala, India, from 15–21 November 2026. The symposium will form part of the scientific programme of ICA 2026 and will highlight research related to arachnid taxonomy and integrative systematics, phylogeny and phylogenomics, biogeography of the Oriental and Indo-Pacific regions, conservation systematics, and regional arachnid diversity.

As part of this initiative, limited support opportunities may be available for students and early-career researchers (ECRs) through support provided by The Systematics Association, UK (<https://systass.org>). The support may include registration fee waivers and partial travel support.

Eligibility and priority will broadly follow the World Bank low- and middle-income country classification framework. Accordingly, students and early-career researchers from low-income, lower-middle-income, and upper-middle-income countries may apply, with priority given to applicants from Asia, the Oriental Region, and the Indo-Pacific. Eligible countries may include India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, and other eligible Asian and Indo-Pacific countries.

Priority may additionally be given to applicants who are presenting work related to arachnid taxonomy, systematics, phylogeny, biogeography, or conservation, demonstrate financial need, and contribute to geographic and gender diversity.

Country classifications will broadly follow the World Bank country income classification system: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

Participants supported under this scheme will be regular ICA 2026 delegates and may participate in all congress sessions and activities. Eligible participants may present their work either within the symposium or in other appropriate scientific sessions of ICA 2026, depending on programme scheduling and thematic suitability.

Students and ECRs who have already applied for the ISA Student Travel Grant and whose presentations align with the thematic scope of the symposium need not apply separately, and eligible applicants may also be considered under this support scheme. A limited additional application opportunity is now open for eligible students and ECRs who were unable to apply for the ISA Student Travel Grant before the deadline.

All applicants and selected participants will be required to complete registration for ICA 2026 in accordance with the congress registration procedures and deadlines. The deadline for applications under this support scheme is 31 May 2026.

How to Apply

Candidates seeking support under this travel support scheme should submit their applications by email to ica2026kochi@gmail.com on or before **31 May 2026**. The subject line of the email should be formatted as: **Systematics Association Support Application_Name_Surname**.

In the body of the email, applicants should briefly introduce themselves, explain the relevance of ICA 2026 to their research, provide an estimated and itemised budget for attending the congress, and describe any financial constraints (such as lack of funding, limited institutional support, salary constraints, etc.). All applications must be submitted in English.

Applicants must attach the following documents in PDF format: a short curriculum vitae (maximum 4 pages), proof of student or early-career researcher status, and the abstract of the work intended for presentation at ICA 2026. Only complete applications received before the deadline will be considered.